

CHURCH HISTORY NOTES

There were Bibles available even in the middle ages. The Roman Catholic church suppressed the light of God's Word, yet historical evidence supports the existence of Bibles even in this dark time.

NOTES FROM BI

B. Anglo -Saxon is the root of the English language.

1. Anglo - Saxon texts refer to the language as Engle or Englisc. This language is also referred to as Old English.

2. There is much historical evidence to show the use of Anglo-Saxon Bibles as early as the 6th century. Portions of these texts still remain today. There is no complete Anglo-Saxon Bible still in existence today. There is historical testimony that mentions a complete Anglo-Saxon Bible. We do have manuscript evidence to support that there were at least large portions of the Bible in Anglo-Saxon.

3. The Wycliffe Bible states in the preface that this Bible had been translated into Saxon by Bede a seventh century theologian thus adding more historical support for the existence of at least portions of the Bible in Anglo-Saxon. *Bede translated the bible in Saxon, that was English, either comoun language of this lond, in his tyme* - Wycliffe in the preface to his English Bible.

4. The existing Anglo-Saxon manuscripts indicate that they were translated from the Old Latin version. Bosworth , a 20th century linguistics expert, states that they were taken from the *Vetus Italica* which is the Old Latin version in existence before Jerome's corrupt Latin Vulgate. (Jerome's Latin vulgate, as we will study later, is the basis for false Catholic Douay version and the modern perversions of the Bible.) The existing Anglo-Saxon manuscripts are in full agreement with the *Textus Receptus* and the KJV. This again shows us the clear stream of English Bible transmission.

C. Middle English developed from Old English during the 12th through the 14th centuries.

1. This pre-Wycliffe Bible English is another step in the development of the modern English language. The purpose of this class is not to study the development of the English language, but to trace the development of the English Bible in these older English

predecessors of the KJV.

2. There is archeological evidence to support the existence of at least part of the English Bible before the Wycliffe Bible of 1389. The Worcester Fragment an existing manuscript dated 1200 mentions the Pentateuch taught in English. John Foxe the author of his famous Book of Martyrs records what he called an old treatise that mentions an English Bible predating the Wycliffe Bible. There are manuscript portions of many parts of the Bible still available today of various pre-Wycliffe old English Bibles.

There is also historical testimony that refers to a complete pre-Wycliffe Bible.

ADD TO CHURCH HISTORY

John Hus

1. One of Wycliffe's followers, [John Hus](#), actively promoted Wycliffe's ideas: that people should be permitted to read the Bible in their own language, and they should oppose the tyranny of the Roman church that threatened anyone possessing a non-Latin Bible with execution. Hus was burned at the stake in **1415**, with Wycliffe's manuscript Bibles used as kindling for the fire. The last words of John Hus were that, *"in 100 years, God will raise up a man whose calls for reform cannot be suppressed."* Almost exactly 100 years later, in **1517**, Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 Theses of Contention (a list of 95 issues of heretical theology and crimes of the Roman Catholic Church) into the church door at Wittenberg. The prophecy of Hus had come true! Martin Luther went on to be the first person to translate and publish the Bible in the commonly-spoken dialect of the German people; a translation more appealing than previous German Biblical translations. Foxe's Book of Martyrs records that in that same year, **1517**, seven people were burned at the stake by the Roman Catholic Church for the crime of teaching their children to say the Lord's Prayer in English rather than Latin.